



AAAASF

The American Association for Accreditation of
Ambulatory Surgery Facilities, Inc.



Patient Safety *First*

About AAAASF

The American Association for Accreditation of Ambulatory Surgery Facilities, Inc. (AAAASF) has been accrediting surgery facilities since 1980. Our primary goal is to promote the highest quality patient safety in the ambulatory (office-based or outpatient) surgery setting. Accreditation represents a high level of attention to the details that make a surgery facility safer.



AAAASF has developed stringent, nationally recognized standards that are continuously reviewed and revised as new developments in outpatient surgery occur. Patient safety is never compromised when standards are amended.

AAAASF requires 100% compliance with all accreditation standards and does not offer partial accreditation. If a facility fails to meet any standard, they must correct the deficiency or risk denial or loss of accreditation.

AAAASF Facility Inspectors are board certified medical specialists trained to perform a thorough and complete facility inspection. AAAASF Facility Inspectors follow a regimented procedure to inspect an outpatient surgery facility in the following nine categories:

1. General Environment
2. Operating Room Environment, Policy & Procedures
3. Recovery Room Environment, Policy & Procedures
4. General Safety in the Facility
5. Blood and Medications
6. Medical Records
7. Quality Assessment/Quality Improvement
8. Personnel
9. Anesthesia

Accredited Facility

To earn AAAASF accreditation, this facility has complied with 100% of the standards in the ten categories of AAAASF accreditation.

This accredited facility has volunteered to comply with the most stringent set of outpatient surgery standards available in the nation. It has met our strict requirements for facility director, medical specialist certification, staff credentials and has passed a thorough inspection by a qualified AAAASF Facility Inspector.

Ask to see the facility's valid accreditation certificate. Each accredited facility must be re-evaluated every year and must comply with all AAAASF accreditation standards. Upon approval, a new accreditation certificate is awarded and must be prominently displayed.

This AAAASF Accredited Facility is fully equipped to perform procedures in the medical specialty or specialties listed on their accreditation certificate.

AAAASF accreditation is considered the "Gold Standard" for outpatient surgery facilities. For more information on AAAASF standards visit our web site.

www.aaaasf.org



The Physician



A physician or surgeon seeking AAAASF accreditation for his or her outpatient surgery facility must first meet these important requirements before he or she can qualify for accreditation:

The Medical Director must be either Board Certified in an ABMS medical or surgical

specialty or a Board Certified Anesthesiologist or an Anesthesiologist within the Board Examination System or an AOABOS Board Certified Doctor of Osteopathy.

- **All physicians** using the facility must be Board Certified (or admissible) physicians in an American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) medical or surgical specialty.
- **All podiatrists** must be Board Certified (or admissible) by the American Board of Podiatric Surgery (ABPS).
- **All osteopathic physicians** must be Board Certified (or admissible) by the AOA Bureau of Osteopathic Specialists. The term “admissible” refers to being in the process of Board Certification. Also, they may only perform those procedures delineated in their respective board certification.
- **Every physician or podiatrist** operating in an AAAASF accredited facility must hold, or must demonstrate that they have held, valid and unrestricted hospital privileges (sometimes called “Core Privileges”) in their specialty at a duly accredited and/or licensed acute care hospital within thirty minutes of the accredited facility for all procedures that are performed within the facility.

Patient Safety

Patient safety is the guiding concern for the creation and evolution of AAAASF accreditation standards. Here are some frequently asked questions that may assist you in discussing your procedure with a medical specialist:

What does it mean to be accredited?

It means that this facility has passed inspection on hundreds of important criteria concerning patient safety in an outpatient setting.

Do you have proof that this facility was inspected?

Ask to see a valid accreditation certificate.

What happens if something goes wrong?

An AAAASF accredited facility has at least one operating room team member with ACLS life safety training. Also, physicians in an AAAASF Accredited Facility can admit patients into a nearby hospital if overnight observation or care is required.

Is this facility as safe as having my surgery in a hospital?

Board certified medical specialists are qualified to perform the same procedures in a hospital and can provide equal if not better care in an outpatient setting.

Do you have any special training for emergencies?

AAAASF accredited facilities must have written procedures and policies to handle all types of emergencies.

What types of anesthesia is the facility allowed to provide?

A facility is accredited by the level of anesthesia they are qualified to provide (Class A, B or C). Class C facilities can offer the highest level of anesthesia for outpatient surgeries. For more information visit our web site. www.aaaasf.org

Who is involved with my anesthesia care?

Only a qualified physician or qualified anesthesia specialist can administer anesthetics during a procedure in an AAAASF accredited facility.

How many of these procedures have you done?

This is a good question to ask to help determine the experience level of the physician or medical specialist.

What happens after my procedure?

All recovering patients must remain under direct observation and supervision until discharged from monitored patient care.

Your Procedure

Whether you are having a minor outpatient medical procedure or a more complex medical surgery, education is the key. Find out as much as you can about the procedure, the medical specialists required for the procedure and the facility where you will have the procedure performed. Included on the next page are some educational resources.

Knowing that this facility has been accredited by AAAASF will help assure you that extra precautions have been taken to make this facility a safe environment for your medical care. Your safety is the primary concern during any medical or surgical procedure.

Medical or surgical safety is a product of:

1. A qualified surgeon or medical specialist
2. A fully equipped and safe facility
3. An appropriate candidate for the procedure



Resources

To learn more about accreditation and the physicians or medical specialists involved in your medical procedure visit these web sites:

American
Association for
Accreditation of
Ambulatory
Surgery
Facilities, Inc.
(AAAASF)
www.aaaasf.org



American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) www.abms.org
American Medical Association (AMA) www.ama-assn.org
American College of Surgeons (ACS) www.facs.org
American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons (AAOS) www.aaos.org
American Board of Podiatric Surgery (ABPS) www.abps.org
American Osteopathic Association (AOA) www.osteopathic.org
American Society of Anesthesiologists (ASA) www.asahq.org
Association of periOperative Registered Nurses (AORN) www.aorn.org
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) www.cms.hhs.gov
American Society of Plastic Surgeons (ASPS) www.plasticsurgery.org
American Society for Aesthetic Plastic Surgery (ASAPS) www.surgery.org
American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO) www.aao.org
American Urological Association (AUA) www.auanet.org
American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy (ASGE) www.asge.org
American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology (ABOG) www.abog.org
Federated Ambulatory Surgery Association (FASA) www.fasa.org



This facility is accredited by the
American Association for Accreditation of Ambulatory
Surgery Facilities, Inc. (AAAASF).

Comments or questions regarding services provided
at this facility can be directed as follows:

AAAASF - POBOX 9500, 5101 Washington Street, Suite 2F
Gurnee, Illinois 60031
toll-free: 1-888-545-5222 by fax: 847-775-1985 email: info@aaaasf.org